



# Justice and Peace Spring 2025

## JUBILEE PRAYER OF POPE FRANCIS

*Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.*

*May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.*

*May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.*

*May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.*

*May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.*

*To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever.*

*Amen*

Editor writes:

Exactly 3 years ago Mouthpeace was ready to send out when Russia invaded Ukraine and I commented in bold black capitals

**FEBRUARY 24TH A DARK DAY FOR UKRAINE. FOR EUROPE, FOR THE WORLD AND FOR ALL WHO WORK & PRAY FOR PEACE, JUSTICE AND TRUTH.**

The news this past week has evoked the same feelings in me as I have put together this Mouthpeace. Not only is there the fragile Israel/Palestine ceasefire and the getting together of Presidents Trump and Putin but now we hear that Pope Francis is critically ill in hospital in Rome.

The dark days have indeed returned but may we this year be pilgrims of hope for others.

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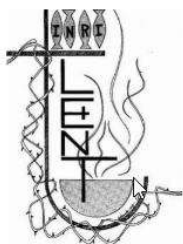
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The articles in MouthPeace are the views of the individual contributors or organisations concerned and do not necessarily reflect those of the Justice and Peace Commissions of the Dioceses of Lancaster, Liverpool and Shrewsbury

## RESOURCES FOR LENT 2025



**Anne O'Connor has again produced some helpful resources:**

**A Journey from Lent to Easter 2025:** "On Ash Wednesday the prophet Joel invites us to turn to God, 'for he is all tenderness and compassion.' For a few minutes each day we can set aside time to sit quietly and listen to God, as we 'journey into love.'" Daily readings from the office of the day with short reflections as an aid to prayer. A5 booklet

**Stations of the Cross 2025** with scripture verses and reflections from a variety of Christian writers. A5 booklet

**Prayers around the Cross on Good Friday evening:** for the past three years in my parish a group of us have gathered around the Cross to watch and wait together for an hour. This intimate service contains readings, reflections and recommended music to download. A5 booklet

**LENT REFLECTION SHEETS 2025** A Lenten Journey, Preparing for the Journey, Holy Week, Holy Week, the Easter Triduum A4 sheets

These can all be downloaded from <https://jpshrewsbury.wordpress.com/resources/>



**CAFOD's online Lent Calendar and prayers for Lent** <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/len-calendar>  
Those who feel energetic can join **The Big Walk 2025** <https://cafod.org.uk/fundraise/big-lent-walk>

**NB Lent Family Fast Day is on March 14<sup>th</sup>** <https://cafod.org.uk/fundraise/family-fast-day?>



**LENT BOOK CLUB** This year, we will be reading 'The Nonviolent Life' by John Dear which will help us think through how we can meet Pope Francis's challenge in his World Day of Peace Message to 'disarm' ourselves. The book asks 4 questions:

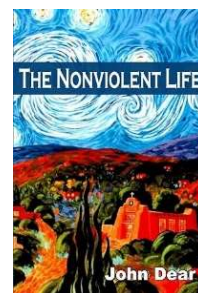
How can we become people of nonviolence and help the world become more nonviolent?

What does it mean to be a person of active nonviolence? What is a nonviolent life?

How can we help build a global grassroots movement of nonviolence to disarm the world and build a just peace?

The book club will run for four sessions on Wednesday evenings from 7 – 8.30 pm on March 12, 19, 26 and April 2. Copies of the book are available from our online shop and direct from Amazon where it is also available on Kindle.

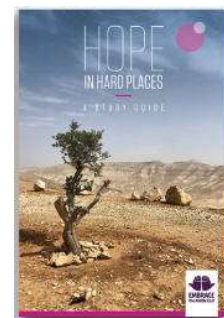
More details and registration <https://paxchristi.org.uk/>



**'HOPE IN HARD PLACES'** Lent Study guide £4.99

Look at stories of steadfast faith, hope and trust found in the Bible and reflect on what God's transformational love can mean for our world today. Find encouragement and strength in stories of hope that span over 3000 years of history - showing us that God remains with us at all times. Suitable for individual reflection or to use with a small group as a Lent Course.

<https://shop.embraceme.org/products/len-study-guide-2025-hope-in-hard-places>



**ACT ON POVERTY** A six week course - ideal for Lent. Christian Aid created Act on Poverty with UK partners in the run up to last year's General Election. We've refreshed the content ready for Lent 2025. The course will help Christians gain a deeper understanding of poverty and get equipped to talk to political representatives about it. <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/act-on-poverty>

**LENT LUNCHEES organised on behalf of Christian Aid in Chester** The lunches are available from 12 noon to 1.30 pm as follows:

Mondays March 10 and 17 Wesley Church Centre, St John Street, Chester CH1 1DA

Tuesday March 25 Vicars Cross United Reformed Church, Oldfield Drive, Vicars Cross, Chester CH3 5LL

Monday March 31 St Mary's Handbridge Centre, Handbridge, Chester CH4 7HL

Monday April 7 Hoole United Reformed Church, Hoole Road, Chester CH2 3NT

Each lunch will be very simple- "soup, bread and cheese and a little bit more". Donations to Christian Aid



**GO GREEN(ER) FOR LENT** Can we become better at caring for creation and improving our lives and the lives of others through healthy, eco-friendly and sustainable living? Look at the list and perhaps individually or in a group consider what you can do this Lent. <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/go-green-er-for-lent/>

**Ash Wednesday 5th March Peace and Prayer walk in Liverpool**

Gather at 1.15pm for a 1.30 pm start at St.Luke's Bombed Out Church at the top of Bold St L1 2TR

We will process towards the Law Courts in Derby Square, stopping at various 'stations' for prayers of repentance for the sin of nuclear weapons and for peace. Ashes will be distributed. We will end at Liverpool Town Hall, as we continue to petition Liverpool City Council to support the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Enquiries and offers of help with reading and music are very welcome. Contact : Jan Harper [janharper20211@outlook.com](mailto:janharper20211@outlook.com)

**Thursdays: 14th March, 10th April, 8th May, 12th June, 10th July Merseyside Pax Christi meeting 1.45 for 2.00pm start.** Venue, usually St.Michael's Parish Room, Horne St Liverpool L6 5EH. Contact sheilacogley@yahoo.co.uk to confirm arrangements.



**CAFOD together with Lancaster Diocesan Faith & Justice Commission**

**invite you to: A Day of Reflection on the Jubilee Year**

**Saturday 5th April 2025 from 11am to 3.30pm at**

**Our Lady & St Michaels Catholic Church, Banklands, Workington CA14 3EP.**



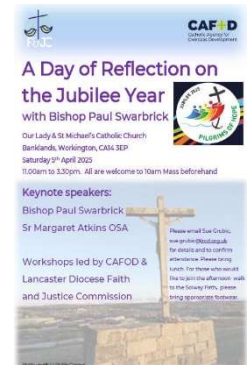
**All welcome to 10am Mass beforehand**

**Please bring your own lunch; tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided**

Keynote speakers: Bishop Paul Swarbrick, Stephen Garsed and Sr. Margaret Atkins, with workshops led by CAFOD and Lancaster Faith and Justice Commission. You are most welcome to attend for some or all of the day. The Day will culminate with a short afternoon Pilgrims Walk by the Solway Firth and Closing Prayer at 3.30pm. If you would like to attend, please contact Sue Grubic, Lancaster Faith & Justice Commission by email – [sue.grubic@lrcd.org.uk](mailto:sue.grubic@lrcd.org.uk) or by text on 07791 444417. Please also contact Sue if you need a lift to the venue or are willing to car share.

**Proposed Timetable:**

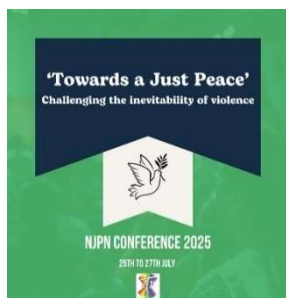
- 10.00am – Mass OLSM (All Welcome)
- Welcome Fr Hugh Patrick
- 11.00am – Key note Speaker (Bishop Paul)
- 11.30am – Pilgrims of Hope - Reflection (Jesus of the Jubilee) Led by Caroline Stanton (CAFOD)
- 12.30 – Lunch ( Please bring your own)
- 1.00pm – Key note Speaker (Stephen Garsed )
- 1.30pm – Key note Speaker( Sr Margaret Atkins)
- 2.00pm – Questions and Answers
- 2.15 pm – Pilgrims Walk (optional) up to the Cross by the shore (Jubilee prayer) For those who want to join the walk, please bring suitable footwear and clothing.
- Final Prayer/blessing
- 3.30pm Close



**The National Justice and Peace Network 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

**25th - 27th July 2025 at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire**

**Moving from 'Just Politics to Just Peace'**



We live in a world where many believe in the inevitability of violence as a means of resolving conflict. However, as people of faith, we believe that we have been given an alternative model. We are to put down our swords, and live out the gospel message of justice, peace and love. Violence is not inevitable, there is another way. During this Jubilee Year, Pope Francis urges us 'to become pilgrims of hope, to silence the sound of arms and overcome divisions.'

Working in partnership with Pax Christi and the Quaker Truth and Integrity Group. the conference will explore how we can build a just peace globally, nationally and in our own life.

Keynote speakers include Dr. Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, and Joanna Frew from Rethinking Security. We have a great line-up of interesting Workshops, Stalls, and other events going on across the weekend.

For more information, and to book your place, please use this link <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/> to the NJPN website where you will find two ways to book: - either through Microsoft Forms, or by downloading a Word version of the Booking Form, filling it in and returning it to admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk

**NB Bookings made after Thursday March 15<sup>th</sup> incur booking surcharge.**

## REPORT ON PEACE SUNDAY AT LIVERPOOL METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL JANUARY 19<sup>TH</sup> 2025

Prepared by Merseyside Pax Christi

Pope Francis' message for Peace Sunday 2025 was: *Forgive us our trespasses, grant us your peace.* After celebrating 11.00 Mass, Archbishop Malcom McMahon joined 80 people, including students from St. Edward's College, who had gathered to hear Dr Gee Walker give the Peace Sunday Lecture entitled: A Mother's Forgiveness.

People were moved by her deeply personal experience of forgiveness, following the murder of her 18-year-old son, Anthony, in a racist attack in 2005.

Questions focussed on how Dr Walker had been able to forgive the murder of her beloved son. Dr Walker said that her immediate response was forgiveness, but this continues to be difficult - a cycle which is infinite and repetitive. Key influences were a life time of faith, prayer and scripture particularly praying the Our Father and meditating on the passion and death of Christ.

Dr Gee also identified the strong impact of her grandmother, who accepted no excuses for failing to attend church on Sunday. In retrospect she felt that she had also been prepared for this huge loss by years of responding to racism in the form of name calling, stares, being isolated and overlooked. She had been inspired by the words of Dr Martin Luther King: 'Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can' and by Pope St. John Paul II: 'Forgiveness is above all a decision of the heart; to go against the natural instinct to repay evil with evil.'

Dr Gee expressed hope for the future due to widespread training in anti-racism, and the work of the Walker foundation to support people affected by hate, including racism. <https://anthonywalkerfoundation.com/>

Members of the panel shared some points from the Pope's message for Peace Sunday. He highlighted our complicity in structural 'trespasses' which cause injustice. His specific proposals for hope included the cancellation or substantial reduction in debt for countries burdened by ecological and financial debt. Pope Francis also stressed the importance of respect for life at all stages and advocated for the diversion of some spending on arms for sustainable development. People were encouraged to support Cafod's campaign for Debt relief <https://action.cafod.org.uk/page/161357/petition/1> and to join Merseyside Pax Christi in local campaigns for disarmament and in disinvestment in arms from Merseyside Pension Fund.

Contact: [janharper20211@hotmail.com](mailto:janharper20211@hotmail.com)

### St. Oscar Romero 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his Martyrdom on 24<sup>th</sup> March 1980

Romero Lecture 2025 Thursday March 20<sup>th</sup> 7 pm St. Edmund of Canterbury Church, Waterloo, Liverpool L22 8QF

Fr. Luis Orlando Perez will speak on "Excavating Hope"

Fr. Luis is a Mexican Jesuit and Lawyer currently pursuing doctoral studies in the Institute of the Americas at the University of London. He has wide experience of working on human rights in conflict hit Columbia and in Mexico,

### WHAT IS JUBILEE ABOUT – IN POPE FRANCIS' OWN WORDS

*This article from the Diocese of Lancaster Faith & Justice Commission was first printed in Lancaster Diocese Catholic Voice. Pope Francis has written extensively about the Jubilee, particularly in the document "Spes non confundit" (Hope does not disappoint) and in his message for the 58th World Day of Peace (1 January 2025). Both are well worth reading for their breadth of vision of what Jubilee means in our times. \*\* This article seeks to distil the key points. The headings are ours. We hope it does justice to the message.*

#### The meaning of jubilee

"Throughout this year, the Catholic Church celebrates the Jubilee, an event that fills hearts with hope. The "Jubilee" recalls an ancient Jewish practice, when, every forty-ninth year, the sound of a ram's horn would proclaim a year of forgiveness and freedom for the entire people. This solemn proclamation was meant to echo throughout the land and to restore God's justice in every aspect of life: in the use of the land, in the possession of goods and in relationships with others, above all the poor and the dispossessed. The blowing of the horn reminded the entire people, rich and poor alike, that no one comes into this world doomed to oppression: all of us are brothers and sisters, sons and daughters of the same Father, born to live in freedom, in accordance with the Lord's will. In our day too, the Jubilee is an event that inspires us to seek to establish the liberating justice of God in our world.

**Hope** The death and resurrection of Jesus is the heart of our faith and the basis of our hope. Hope is born of love and based on the love springing from the pierced heart of Jesus upon the cross. Hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.



Hope overflows in generosity; it is free of calculation, makes no hidden demands, is unconcerned with gain, but aims at one thing alone: to raise up those who have fallen, to heal hearts that are broken and to set us free from every kind of bondage.

In every age, the Church has the responsibility of reading the signs of the times and interpreting them in the light of the Gospel. Often we come across people who are discouraged, pessimistic and cynical about the future, as if nothing could possibly bring them happiness. For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope. God's word helps us find reasons for that hope.

For everyone, may the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the "door" of our salvation, whom the Church is charged to proclaim always, everywhere and to all as "our hope."

### **Appeals for hope**

I ask with all my heart that hope be granted to the billions of the poor, who often lack the essentials of life. The Jubilee reminds us that the goods of the earth are not destined for a privileged few, but for everyone. The rich must be generous and not avert their eyes from the faces of their brothers and sisters in need. Here I think especially of those who lack water and food: hunger is a scandal, an open wound on the body of our humanity, and it summons all of us to a serious examination of conscience.

I ask that the more affluent nations acknowledge the gravity of so many of their past decisions and determine to forgive the debts of countries that will never be able to repay them. More than a question of generosity, this is a matter of justice. It is made all the more serious today by a new form of injustice which we increasingly recognize, namely, that "a true 'ecological debt' exists, particularly between the global North and South. As sacred Scripture teaches, the earth is the Lord's and all of us dwell in it as "aliens and tenants". If we really wish to prepare a path to peace in our world, let us commit ourselves to remedying the causes of injustice, settling unjust and unpayable debts, and feeding the hungry.

Each of us must feel in some way responsible for the devastation to which the earth, our common home, has been subjected, beginning with those actions that fuel the conflicts that presently plague our human family. I think, in particular, of all manner of disparities, the inhuman treatment meted out to migrants, environmental decay, the confusion wilfully created by disinformation, the refusal to engage in any form of dialogue and the immense resources spent on the industry of war. All these, taken together, represent a threat to the existence of humanity as a whole.

At the beginning of this year, then, we desire to heed the plea of suffering humankind in order to feel called, together and as individuals, to break the bonds of injustice and to proclaim God's justice. Sporadic acts of philanthropy are not enough. Cultural and structural changes are necessary, so that enduring change may come about.

### **Three proposals**

First, I renew the appeal launched by Saint John Paul II on the occasion of the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000 to consider "reducing substantially, if not cancelling outright, the international debt which seriously threatens the future of many nations". In recognition of their ecological debt, the more prosperous countries ought to feel called to do everything possible to forgive the debts of those countries that are in no condition to repay the amount they owe. Naturally, lest this prove merely an isolated act of charity that simply reboots the vicious cycle of financing and indebtedness, a new financial framework must be devised, leading to the creation of a global financial Charter based on solidarity and harmony between peoples.

I also ask for a firm commitment to respect for the dignity of human life from conception to natural death, so that each person can cherish his or her own life and all may look with hope to a future of prosperity and happiness for themselves and for their children. I would like once more to propose abolition of the death penalty in all nations. This penalty not only compromises the inviolability of life but eliminates every human hope of forgiveness and rehabilitation.

In this time marked by wars, let us use at least a fixed percentage of the money earmarked for armaments to establish a global Fund to eradicate hunger and facilitate in the poorer countries educational activities aimed at promoting sustainable development and combating climate change. We need to work at eliminating every pretext that encourages young people to regard their future as hopeless or dominated by the thirst to avenge the blood of their dear ones. The future is a gift meant to enable us to go beyond past failures and to pave new paths of peace"

### **How can we, in the Diocese of Lancaster, bring hope to others?**

Let us come together to publicly call for justice for the poor. Twenty five years ago, the Jubilee 2000 Debt Campaign led to governments and financial institutions cancelling £100 billion of debt owed by 35 of the poorest countries - a great achievement by ordinary people acting together. We can do it again! A good start would be to sign the CAFOD debt petition at [cafod.org.uk/cancelthedebt](https://cafod.org.uk/cancelthedebt). CAFOD also has Jubilee resources for schools and parishes. More locally, we can support prisons, hospices and community groups working with all kinds of people in need. Every little act of hope is important.

\*\* 'Hope does not disappoint' [https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/bulls/documents/20240509\\_spes-non-confundit\\_bolla-giubileo2025.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/bulls/documents/20240509_spes-non-confundit_bolla-giubileo2025.html)

Message from 58th world peace day. <https://www.humandevopment.va/en/news/2024/messaggio-del-papa-giornata-mondiale-della-pace-2025.html>



### Opening Doors

As pilgrims of hope NJPN resolves to open wide the doors for future generations ensuring as we go that no one is left behind. Journey with us this jubilee year as we open the doors to a just peace for current and future generations

Join us as we commit to taking restorative action to bring about peace and justice for migrants, or people living in poverty and inequality and for a world in climate crisis. We owe it to future generations to make this Jubilee permanent.

### OPENING DOORS TO A REAL LIVING WAGE

Saturday November 16<sup>th</sup> Open Networking Day in Wheeler Hall, Leeds

*Thanks to Brain O'Toole who prepared this report of the day*

In the morning Sara spoke to all of her lived experience of poverty and of her connection to the Catholic Church and by extension to Catholic Social Teaching (CST) through her active work in the area of poverty with local priests as advocates. First off, Sara spoke of fact that the real living wage is a growing concern for many working and living in Leeds. We were reminded that Pope Francis is perhaps the greatest advocate of CST when he explains that we can't have a real peace when we're living on the margins.

Sara began her presentation by explaining that she is part of the growing Living Wage Movement, and that the view of the youth and the young is paramount given that the impact of the lack of the real living wage impacts disproportionately on children and youth. She described growing up in Cowgate and going to school in Blakelaw Comprehensive school. The school and the community that it served were entrenched in desperate poverty. And the real difficulty now is that things are just as bad and perhaps even worse. Back when Sara was going to school if you were at work you could eat, you could manage. Now, however, being in work is no guarantee that you can eat well or even at all in some cases. We now have a large cohort of the population known as the working poor where what they earn just won't cover the basics.

She suggested to eradicate poverty one way is to campaign strategically for the introduction of the living wage.

In the afternoon, Sir John Battle facilitated a round table discussion with:

Luke a Debt Counselor – who explained that debt cancelling is not an answer, it is but a temporary relief if we don't address the structural causes of the debt.

Andrew from Citizens UK – who explained that compassion and charity are just not enough, We must organise a chapter of citizens who can think and act and must include those with a lived experience of poverty.

Tom A Champion of the Living Wage explained that poverty and financial poverty are the one thing that gets in the way of a family achieving. There is a lessened ability to access services, to spend time together as a family. Poverty can and does have an insidious effect on families. What we need is justice – beyond the direct service of charity.

Paul from Leeds Church Institute: When thinking on how to address the issues, I must think on what door I can walk through: a door into a sophisticated pursuit of justice. We must also remember that many are too proud to access foodbanks. Ecumenical charity is perhaps the best kept secret of the Leeds Church Institute, we must consider how faith can manifest itself on the margins.

Ailse – a Digital Marketing Student. “Young people are the now, they are the spark, the Youth are now doing their bit.” There must be ways for those who don't come to church to express their faith in work with those in poverty, in service perhaps

Read the full report of Sara's talk and the day

<https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/poverty-and-inequality/report-from-november-16th-2024-njpn-open-networking-day/>

### OPENING DOORS TO FREEDOM FROM TRAFFICKING AND SLAVERY

Thursday February 6<sup>th</sup> Evening zoom meeting

An introductory Webinar to help those who are just learning about the insidious crime that is Human Trafficking in memory of St. Josephine Bakhita whose feast day is on February 8<sup>th</sup>

The evening was facilitated by Brian O' Toole, who is a member of the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN) Executive, APT Ireland and the Religious in Europe Networking Against Trafficking in Europe (RENATE) and Talitha Ku

Brian gave information about St. Josephine Bakhita, patron saint of those who are being trafficked and of Sudan.

<https://mycatholic.life/saints/saints-of-the-liturgical-year/february-8-saint-josephine-bakhita-virgin/>



He then offered an introduction to human trafficking reminding us that it is found everywhere but is often hidden in plain sight. It is the persistent and ongoing exploitation of people for profit. It can happen to anyone of any age. Victims are sometimes afraid to come forward or we may not recognise the signs even when they are right in front of us.

Some of the different forms of human trafficking include: sex trafficking, labour trafficking, domestic servitude, criminal exploitation, child trafficking, organ trafficking, early child marriage, forced begging and surrogacy and adoption.

### Why are people trafficked?

Brain mentioned the push factors that made people decide to leave their homes – poverty, conflict and war, unemployment, lack of education and gender inequality. When combined with the pull factors – promises of well paid jobs, better living conditions, marriage or romantic relationships, education and training prospects - people are tempted and vulnerable. He went on to talk about the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and its shortcomings.

The next speaker Kevin Hyland OBE was a police officer for 30 years who retired in 2014 when he was appointed the UK's first Anti-slavery Independent Commissioner, one of the main provisions of the Modern Slavery Act. He now works with the Santa Marta group which brings together leaders from civil society, law enforcement, business, faith and communities seeking to bring systemic change to end human trafficking. Kevin encouraged us to look at their Guidance and Awareness booklet to understand more about the issues and how we could help.



<https://santamartagroup.org/resources/guidance-and-awareness-handbook>

The final speaker was Sr. Imelda Poole IBVM who told of her experiences working in Albania with girls who had been trafficked into Europe ( Italy and UK) then returned home <https://marywardloreto.org/cross-border-work/>

You will find the full recording of the evening <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D5hQtnhLCTU>

This year we are being called to "Pilgrims of Hope" and at this meeting there was a resounding call to action. But what can you do? Some suggestions from Brian O'Toole

Watch and Share the recording of the evening with others.

Check out the Santa Marta Website. <https://santamartagroup.org/>

Get to know Josephine Bakhita's Story a little better. Link on page 6

Write to your elected representative (sample letter <https://santamartagroup.org/resources/sample-letters> )

Keep up with our other NJPN events <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/>

Become an NJPN Member <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/become>



### LET THE OPPRESSED GO FREE

Pope Francis "Human trafficking exists but is kept underground"

In this sculpture St. Josephine Bakhita opens a trap door to release people hidden underground.

Timothy Schmalz the sculptor says 'Art work brings attention and awareness' See how he came to make the sculpture

<https://youtu.be/mfXrkQO6B1g>

### FUTURE NJPN OPENING DOORS EVENTS

**Monday 7th April: Evening Zoom Meeting**

Opening Doors to Refugees and Asylum Seekers

**Saturday 10th May: Open Networking Day in London (CAFOD)** Opening Doors to a Sustainable World for Future Generations Place TBA

**25 – 27 July**

**Swanwick Conference: Opening Doors to a Just Peace**

See page 3

### CAFOD'S CANCEL THE DEBT CAMPAIGN

For many Catholics around the world, Jubilee 2025 represents not only a call to spiritual renewal, but a profound rallying cry for economic and ecological justice.

This Jubilee year, Catholics unite in solidarity with those suffering in debt-distressed nations to demand a global debt system that protects human and environmental rights and enables, rather than obstructs, development. Download CAFOD's report to find out more

<https://cafod.org.uk/about-us/policy-and-research/debt-and-economic-justice/new-global-debt-crisis-and-solutions>

Sign the petition to world leaders <https://action.cafod.org.uk/page/161357/petition/1>





### CAFOD'S JUBILEE ICON

In order to celebrate and commemorate the Jubilee Year 2025, Pilgrims of Hope, CAFOD commissioned an icon from artist Mulugeta Araya in Ethiopia, for the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

Ethiopia was chosen because of the strong tradition of iconography within the country and to demonstrate that this is a global Jubilee - not just something that is happening in England and Wales.

The icon portrays Jesus faithfully in the Northern Ethiopian tradition and is consistent with Ethiopian facial expressions and clothing, such as the women's head coverings.

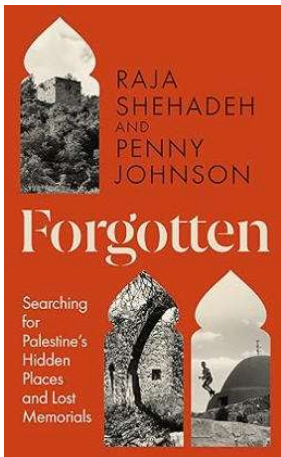
Find out more about its scriptural basis and meaning <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/jubilee-icon>



### FROM CLIMATE CHANGE TO COOKING, FROM POLITICS TO POP

During the first lockdown of 2020, we thought it was more important than ever to continue talking about the issues our partners faced, particularly in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, through a series of free weekly webinars. Now that Season 7 is complete, we wanted to remind you that Seasons 1-6 are still available to watch and listen to again. Click below for the complete back catalogue, featuring hour-long conversations with Amos's partners and friends. The webinars cover all aspects of our work and more — from climate change to cooking, from politics to pop. <https://www.amostrust.org/resources/amos-6-webinars/>

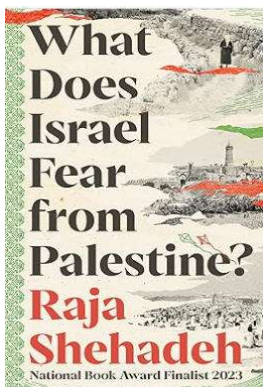
In an Amos Trust webinar on February 11<sup>th</sup> Raja Shehadeh talked about and read from these two books and also discussed the Palestinian-Israeli situation. <https://www.amostrust.org/resources/amos-6-webinars/s7-e3-forgotten-in-conversation-with-raja-shehadeh/>



Raja Shehadeh is not just a lawyer, writer, and human rights activist — he is a witness to history and a voice for justice in Palestine. Born in 1951 in Ramallah, his life has been shaped by displacement, resistance and an unwavering belief in the power of words and law. His family's journey — from Jaffa to Ramallah during the Nakba — set the stage for a lifelong struggle to defend Palestinian rights. Raja read from his new book, 'Forgotten: Searching For Palestine's Hidden Places and Lost Memorials' and 2024's 'What Does Israel Fear From Palestine?'

**Forgotten** is a search for hidden or neglected memorials and places in historic Palestine - now Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories - and what they might tell us about the land and the people who live on our small slip of earth between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River.

From ancient city ruins to the Nabi 'Ukkasha mosque and tomb, acclaimed writers and researchers Raja Shehadeh and Penny Johnson ask: what has been memorialised, and what lies unseen, abandoned or erased - and why? Whether standing on a high cliff overlooking Lebanon or at the lowest land-based elevation on earth at the Dead Sea, they explore lost connections in a fragmented land.



In elegiac, elegant prose, Shehadeh and Johnson grapple not only with questions of Israeli resistance to acknowledging the Nakba - the 1948 catastrophe for Palestinians - but also with the complicated history of Palestinian commemoration today.

#### What does Israel fear from Palestine today?

In the years that followed, while the Berlin Wall crumbled and South Africa abolished apartheid, the Israeli government rejected every opportunity for reconciliation with Palestine. But Raja Shehadeh, suggests that this does not mean the two nations cannot work together as partners on the road to peace, not genocide.

In graceful, devastatingly observed prose, this is a fresh perspective in time of great need.

### FOCUS ON LANCASHIRE

*This article is from the Winter 24/5 edition of CAAT news – see below for more details*

Tourists riding the steam trains of the East Lancashire Railway, or enjoying the Blackpool illuminations could be forgiven for thinking that the troubles of the world are very far away. They might be surprised to discover that Lancashire actually sits at the very heart of the UK arms trade, and the death and destruction it causes.





The UK's biggest arms company, BAE Systems, operates two large arms factories / aerodromes in the country: one in Warton, west of Preston, the other in Samlesbury to the east of the city.

Warton has a "rich history of over 100 years of aviation innovation," according to the Warton Aviation Enterprise Zone. That's certainly one way of putting it. More accurately, Warton is the site where the Tornado and Eurofighter Typhoon fighter jets are built. These aircraft have been central to the Saudi-led coalition's brutal bombing in the war in Yemen. Since 2015, over 277,000 people have died as a result of the conflict, either killed directly by the bombing or as a result of the destruction of food supplies, healthcare facilities, and transport links.

Before that, Warton was also responsible for the production of the Hawk Jets sold to the Indonesian forces attacking East Timor. The export of one of these jets was delayed after anti-arms trade activists crept onto the site in 1996 and set about it with a hammer.

The site at Samlesbury has been the focus of recent campaign activity. It proudly boasts that it makes the rear fuselage of the F35 warplane, an aircraft that Israel has been using in the bombing of Gaza, and that was also reportedly used in Israel's attacks on Yemen. UK components make up some 15% of the warplane's value. A life-size model of the F35 can be found outside the factory.

Local group Blackburn4Palestine have been organising regular demonstrations at the Samlesbury site, some with hundreds of protesters in attendance, making it very clear that the factory needs to stop making weapons being used in a genocide. Protests continue despite intimidating policing.

BAE Systems co-opts other organisations in the area. For example, as shown by CAAT and Demilitarise Education's report last year "Weaponising Universities" (available on the CAAT website) the company has deep links with Lancaster University, with which it aims to persuade Science Technology Engineering and Maths students to work for the company in Lancashire and Cumbria. The report and its findings were presented to students at a conference at Lancaster over the summer.

The company even tried to use Lancashire Libraries to host summer holiday "Cyber Security" sessions for kids, hosted by BAE Systems trainers. This was stopped by a determined campaign led by local people. It was a clear attempt to draw young, talented people into an industry that spreads war and misery.

As the protests at arms factories, university encampments, even local libraries show, it is time for the area to peacefully transition away from weapons making. The Red Rose of the county symbolises a long and proud history. It is high time that it also symbolised peace.

### STOP PRESS - Latest news.

On February 17th over 230 global civil society organisations have called on governments producing F-35 fighter jets to immediately halt all arms transfers to Israel, including the F-35 jets.

The F-35 jet programme partners include Australia, Canada, Denmark, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, UK and US (lead partner).

Civil society organisations around the world have taken legal action to hold their governments accountable for the F-35 programme, and complicity in Israel's crimes in Gaza.

The letter, coordinated by CAAT, has been sent to Government Ministers of F-35 programme partner nations which include: Australia, Canada, Denmark, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, the UK and the US.

You can read the letter and details of all the signatories which include NJPN Network, Pax Christi UK and Merseyside Pax Christi here <https://caat.org.uk/news/over-230-global-organisations-demand-governments-producing-f-35-jets-stop-arming-israel/>



### CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE ARMS TRADE is celebrating 50 years

'The past 50 years have been very busy for CAAT. We owe a huge debt to activists who formed the organisation and everyone who has volunteered and supported our efforts.'

You can read this special anniversary edition here

<https://caat.org.uk/publications/caat-news-271-winter-2024-50th-anniversary-edition/>

#### A brief history of CAAT

**1974 CAAT Founded** CAAT was founded by a coalition of Peace groups, partly in response to the Yom Kippur War of 1973 between Israel and a coalition of Arab states led by Egypt and Syria. The UK had armed both sides. CAAT started out with just one staff member.

**Late 1970s Workers fight to work for life over death** CAAT helped to popularise the trade union initiated Lucas Aerospace project for reorganising an arms producing company into one that could produce Kidney dialysis machines and many other valuable civilian projects. Although the plan was rejected by Lucas management the ideas and concepts continue to provide inspiration for those seeking arms industry conversion today.

**1985 Midland Bank backs down** Midland Bank, now HSBC, shut down its arms export department in response to pressure from CAAT supporters. CAAT mobilised huge numbers of supporters, primarily by writing to the bank to question the legitimacy of it.

**1986 Office move** In January 1986 CAAT moved from its first home, in the peace movement Premises of 5 Caledonian Road, to 11 Goodwin Street in Finsbury Park, which would be CAAT's home for the next 27 years.

**1989 No Hawk Jets to Iraq** CAAT campaigned against the sale of 50 British Aerospace Hawk Jets to Iraq, following the Iraq-Iran war of the previous several years. The Foreign Office eventually halted the sale. CAAT highlighted the instability of the region and Iraq's appalling human rights record. CAAT was clearly vindicated by subsequent events.

**1993 CAAT helps start the campaign to ban landmines** CAAT helped organise the first meeting of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. CAAT supported the campaign from then until the Ottawa Treaty was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1997.

**1993-1999 Hawks to Indonesia, and East Timor's freedom struggle** From 1993, CAAT campaigned against the sale of Hawk fighters to Indonesia, ruled at the time by brutal dictator Suharto, and illegally occupying East Timor, where they carried out a genocide that killed 183,000. In 1996, four activists with connections to CAAT disarmed a Hawk jet bound Indonesia at BAEs factory at Warton. They were subsequently acquitted by a jury. The Labour government elected in 1997, however, allowed the sales to continue.

**1999 The Arms Fair opens for business. CAAT calls for closure** The biennial DSEI arms fair begins, CAAT has opposed and challenged this event since the start and continues to do so. The event has a history of violating international law by selling torture devices and cluster munitions.

DSEI will return again in September 2025

**2000 The Church ends its relationship with arms companies** After a campaign by the CAAT Christian Network, the Church of England redefined its investment criteria and confirmed it would no longer invest in arms companies.

**2003 Spying scandal** There were revelations that arms giant BAE Systems employed a corporate espionage firm to infiltrate CAAT, with as many as eight spies involved. One of them was CAAT's National Campaigns Coordinator and former long-time volunteer, Martin Hogbin.

**2008 BAE corruption case** CAAT went to Court, with the High Court ruling that the Serious Fraud Office acted unlawfully when it dropped a corruption inquiry into BAE Systems, at the orders of Prime Minister Tony Blair. The case was brought by CAAT and the Corner House. The arms company was being investigated over corruption allegations involving billions of pounds of bribes relating to deals with Saudi Arabia.

Unfortunately the decision was eventually overturned by the Supreme Court.

**2012 CAAT honoured with a reward** CAAT won the Right Livelihood Award, often called the "alternative Nobel Prize" for our innovative and effective campaigning.

**2013 Office moves and incorporation** CAAT moved to new offices at 5-7 Wells Terrace in Finsbury Park, London. Around the same time, CAAT changed from being an unincorporated organisation with no legal form, to a Company Limited by Guarantee.

**2016 -2023 Putting the Arms Trade in trial** 2016 CAAT took on the UK government in the High court because of the overwhelming evidence of UK weapons being used in violations of international humanitarian law in Yemen.

**2019** More than three years later, on 20 June 2019, the Court of Appeal ruled in CAAT's favour. It found that it was "irrational and therefore unlawful" for the Government to have allowed arms sales to Saudi Arabia for use in Yemen without assessing possible Saudi war crimes.

**2020-2023** Unfortunately, following a whitewash of a review led by the then business minister Liz Truss, the UK government decided in July 2020 to restart arms sales.

**In April 2021** CAAT was granted permission to bring this second judicial review. Unfortunately, the High Court ruled against CAAT in June 2023.

**2022 Another office move** Following the pandemic, with fewer staff and many working from home, CAAT moved from Wells Terrace to its current premises at the Green House in Bethnal Green, leaving the London Borough of Islington for the first time in its history.

**2023-24 Genocide in Gaza** Since the killings on 7 October 2023, and the beginning of Israel's genocidal war in Gaza, now expanded to Lebanon, CAAT has made opposing UK arms sales to Israel our main campaign. See above

Join us at our annual supporter event. Be a changemaker for love, equality, dignity, and justice by coming to our conference or joining on line. Stories of hope from a Programme Officer and Partner from Guatemala. Fundraising resources for Christian Aid Week 2025. Updates from our humanitarian team on our ongoing response to global disasters, including our work in Gaza. Our latest campaign action for 2025. Reflections on 80 years of Christian Aid and what we've achieved together.

**MAIN EVENT IN LONDON at St John's Waterloo Live streamed**

**JOIN A REGIONAL WATCH PARTY** livestreaming with a chance to meet others, exchange ideas and join together for a free networking lunch. In our area:

St Andrew's Church, Bedford Street, Crewe, CW2 6LE

Sandylands Methodist Church, 37 Sandylands Rd, Kendal LA9 6EU)

St John's Church, Bolton Road, Pendlebury, Salford, Manchester, M27 8XS

**JOIN AT HOME for livestream**

Register for all these at <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/events/changemakers-conference>

**BOARBANK HALL Allithwaite, Grange Over Sands, Cumbria, LA11 7NH**



Prayer - Study - Community - Hospitality - Peace - Relaxation  
We welcome bookings from parish, school or student groups or any other groups who may benefit from our hospitality.

We also work with schools to provide INSET days to suit each school, with the option of overnight stays.

Any group who would like help in arranging a programme or speakers for any kind of retreat or residential event should contact Sr Margaret Atkins on

[margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk](mailto:margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk) or 015395-32288

See [www.boarbankhall.org.uk](http://www.boarbankhall.org.uk)



Sr Margaret Atkins from Boarbank Hall, warmly invites you to a number of events:

All our residential events combine talks and discussions with Mass, Prayer of the Church and opportunity for personal prayer, in a context of friendship and community in our beautiful Cumbrian setting beside Morecambe Bay.

**Thinking Faith 14th-16th March 2025.** Lent Zoom weekend Evening sessions only. Time out for working Catholics.

**Our Lady in Latin 21st-23rd/24th March 2025.** Learn about the Latin and the music of our best known hymns to Our Lady. All welcome.

**Craft Weekend 2nd-4/5th May 2025.** Bring your own arts or crafts, enjoy working and sharing together. Optional trip to the Quaker Tapestry, Kendal.

**Two Wings and Some Prayers 12th-17th May 2025.** Prayer, walks and birdwatching, with a focus on learning birdsong.

**Celebrating Creation 27th-31st May 2025.** Time to explore how to live out Laudato Si' fully in our personal lives and within the Church. Talks, discussions, art, liturgy, gardening, walks. All welcome.

**Thinking Faith 26th July-2nd August 2025.** Theme: St Paul Time out for working Catholics.

**St Augustine's Confessions 18th-22nd August 2025.** An introduction to St Augustine's classic spiritual autobiography. All welcome.

**Celebrating Creation 4th-10th October 2025.** Time to explore how to live out Laudato Si' fully in our personal lives and within the Church. Talks, discussions, art, liturgy, gardening, walks. All welcome.

**Magnificat! 24th-26/27th October 2025.** Follow up to Our Lady in Latin, exploring the Latin and the music of the canticles from the birth narratives in St Luke. For those who know just a little Latin!

**Hope in Health 5th-7/8th December 2025.** For all who support or care for anyone who is sick, professionals and others.

## DIARY

### MARCH

- 5 Ash Wednesday Merseyside Pax Christi Prayer and Peace walk.** Gather at 1.15p.m. for a 1.30 p.m. start at St.Luke's Bombed Out Church at the top of Bold St L1 2TR Enquiries and offers of help with reading and music are very welcome .  
Contact : Jan Harper [janharper20211@outlook.com](mailto:janharper20211@outlook.com) More details see page 3
- 7 World Day of Prayer** 'I made you wonderful' prepared by the Christian women of the Cook Islands <https://www.wwdp.org.uk/>
- 8 Christian Aid Change Makers conference** from 10.30am to 1pm more details page 11
- 8 International Woman's Day** <https://www.internationalwomensday.com/>
- 10 Christian Aid Lent Lunch** :12 – 1.30 pm Wesley Church Centre, St John Street, Chester CH1 1DA
- 12 Pax Christi Lent course on line** 7-8.30 pm see page 2
- 13 Merseyside Pax Christi meeting** 1.45 for 2.00pm start. Venue, usually St.Michael's Parish Room, Horne St Liverpool L6 5EH  
Contact [sheilacogley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sheilacogley@yahoo.co.uk) to confirm arrangements.
- 14 CAFOD Lent Fast Day** <https://cafod.org.uk/fundraise/family-fast-day?>
- 14- 16 Thinking Faith Lent Zoom weekend** Evening sessions only. Time out for working Catholics see page 11
- 14 CAFOD Quiz Night at Our Lady's Parish Centre, Ellesmere Port Town Centre at 7.30 pm** Entrance is £3 for adults and £1 for children and the usual raffle will take place with good prizes. Refreshments will be available at the interval. All proceeds will go towards Cafod's latest development project. Contact Tony Walsh on 0151 355 6419
- 17 Christian Aid Lent Lunch** 12 – 1.30 pm Wesley Church Centre, St John Street, Chester CH1 1DA
- 19 Pax Christi Lent course on line** 7-8.30 pm see page 2
- 20 Romero Lecture** 7 pm St Edmund of Canterbury church Waterloo Liverpool see page 4
- 21-23 Our Lady in Latin** at Boarbank Hall Grange-over-sands, Cumbria see page 11
- 25 Christian Aid Lent Lunch** 12 – 1.30 pm Vicars Cross United Reformed Church, Oldfield Drive, Vicars Cross, Chester CH3 5LL
- 26 Pax Christi Lent course on line** 7-8.30 pm see page 2
- 31 Christian Aid Lent Lunch** 12 – 1.30 pm St Mary's Handbridge Centre, Handbridge, Chester CH4 7HL

### APRIL

- 2 Pax Christi Lent course on line** 7-8.30 pm see page 2
- 5 A Day of Reflection on the Jubilee Year 11am to 3.30pm** at Our Lady & St Michaels Catholic Church, Banklands, Workington CA14 3EP. Organised by CAFOD together with Lancaster Diocesan Faith & Justice Commission more details Page 3
- 7 Christian Aid Lent Lunch** 12 – 1.30 pm Hoole United Reformed Church, Hoole Road, Chester CH2 3NT
- 7 NJPN meeting on zoom** 'Opening doors to refugees and asylum seekers – speaking to people themselves' page
- 10 Merseyside Pax Christi meeting** 1.45 for 2.00pm start. Venue, usually St.Michael's Parish Room, Horne St Liverpool L6 5EH  
Contact [sheilacogley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sheilacogley@yahoo.co.uk) to confirm arrangements.
- 20 EASTER SUNDAY**

### MAY

- 2 – 4/5 Craft Weekend** Boarbank Hall, Grange-over-sands, Cumbria see page 11
- 8 Merseyside Pax Christi meeting** 1.45 for 2.00pm start. Venue, usually St.Michael's Parish Room, Horne St Liverpool L6 5EH  
Contact [sheilacogley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sheilacogley@yahoo.co.uk) to confirm arrangements.
- 11-17 Christian Aid Week** <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>
- 12-17 Two Wings and Some Prayers** Boarbank Hall, Grange-over-sands, Cumbria see page 11
- 15 International Conscientious Objectors' Day** <https://nationaltoday.com/international-conscientious-objectors-day/>
- 21 Feast of Blessed Franz Jägerstätter** Pax Christi's updated pack with biographical information and ready to use service and reflections £6 available from <https://paxchristi.org.uk/product-category/bl-franz-jagerstatter/>
- 27-31 Celebrating Creation** Boarbank Hall, Grange-over-sands, Cumbria see Page 11

### JUNE

- 5 World Environment Day** <https://www.un.org/en/observances/environment-day>
- 7 Pax Christi AGM London**
- 12 Merseyside Pax Christi meeting** 1.45 for 2.00pm start. Venue, usually St.Michael's Parish Room, Horne St Liverpool L6 5EH  
Contact [sheilacogley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sheilacogley@yahoo.co.uk) to confirm arrangements.
- JULY 25-27th 'A Just Peace' NJPN Conference at Swanwick** NB Bookings after May 15<sup>th</sup> incur booking surcharge see page 3

### EDITOR : THANKYOU TO THE FOLLOWING HELPFUL WEBSITES:

**National Justice and Peace Network** <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/>

**Independent Catholic News** <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/>

**NW NJPN Bulletin produced by Anne O'Connor** <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/category/njpn-north-west/>